

In addition to St. Louis and Kansas City, the Department of Justice has launched Operation LeGend in seven other cities. This is not a Federal overreach. It is not the Federal Government, again, taking over local law enforcement. It is not the first step toward martial law. It is not a crack-down on peaceful protests. What it is, is a cooperative effort with cities that have been suffering from increases in violent crime.

Under this operation, officers have arrested, nationwide, more than 2,000 people, including 163 people for murder, and one of the people arrested was the alleged killer of 4-year-old LeGend Taliferro.

The rise of violence in cities this year—and particularly the cities I am talking about that have benefited, I think, from Operation LeGend—has been incredibly rapid and unbearably destructive, not to mention totally unacceptable. It has taken a toll on lives un-lived, families torn apart, communities terrorized, people wondering what is going to happen when they or their children walk out the front door or play in the backyard or, like little LeGend, are sound asleep in their beds.

Nothing we do can fully heal the damage, certainly, that these victims of violent crime and their families have suffered, but we can get the justice that both the victim and people who care about them deserve.

We may have a lot of disagreements in the Congress, but I hope we can agree that violent criminals belong behind bars. I hope we can all agree that all parents deserve a safe neighborhood where they can raise their children. I hope we can all agree that the police do a difficult and dangerous job, and they deserve all the support and appreciation we can give them.

Not long ago, LeGend Taliferro's mother spoke about her son and the pain of losing him. She said: "He was a ball of joy, and I want his legacy to live on and I want us to continue to fight against violence and get justice for my son and others." That is the end of that mother's quote, but it is not the end of a life that mother will now live without her son or the life he didn't get to live. And there are too many lives that didn't get to be lived, too many lives lost through needless violence.

Operation LeGend gives local law enforcement the valuable support they need to get violent criminals off the street. Again, it was named for an innocent 4-year-old boy. It could have been named for any of the thousands of other victims of violent criminals in dozens of other cities this year. It could have been named for St. Louis Police Officer Tamarris Bohannon, who was killed in the line of duty last month. It could have been named for the two officers in California who had a sneak attack as they were sitting and trying to secure the local transportation center just in the last couple of days. It is a tragedy that it had to be named for anyone.

While some people have sought to defund the police and to disparage the police, Operation LeGend is successful because it supports the police. These are some of the hardest jobs in America, second only to the families of people who care deeply about their loved ones who have decided to serve in that job to protect us all.

American communities are safer because of Operation LeGend. They will be safer as we continue to work toward greater and more effective community policing. They will be safer when people who are violent criminals are no longer walking around to perpetuate further violence.

I salute the Justice Department for their efforts and the local departments that have reached out and taken advantage of the moment to get something done that they were not able to get done by themselves.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, when I was growing up, I was raised to believe in the American dream. My mom taught me that we were blessed because God and our Founders created the greatest country ever, where anything was possible. We weren't allowed to complain. Debt, Big Government, socialism, and communism were bad. College was for a better paying job. Church on Sundays was absolutely not optional.

While I didn't always appreciate my tough-love, my-way-or-the-highway mom growing up, I now thank God every day for my mom and this country. She gave me the opportunity to experience every lesson this country had to offer before I was 20.

Sadly, the values that I grew up with are becoming a way of the past, but I believe these values, these virtues, can and should be part of our country's future. The left has worked hard over the last 50 years to discredit the values of the America I was raised with and the values of the America I want my grandkids to grow up with.

In recent weeks, we have seen the Democrats try hard to paint our President and the entire Republican Party as "darkness," but let me tell you what darkness would actually look like in America.

What if our country turned the keys over to the far left and turned away from capitalism in favor of socialism? The data is already in on that. The result would be the same as it has been throughout history: Socialism would destroy our economy and cause widespread poverty and oppression. Darkness.

What if our country just gave up on the battle to protect innocent human life and agreed with the political party that proudly embraces the killing of the unborn at any time, for any reason? Darkness.

What if we decide to change our First Amendment, editing out our freedom of

speech and freedom of religion, forcing Christians and Jews to retreat from the public square and silencing any who dare to speak up? Darkness.

What if America did what every authoritarian government in history has done and must eventually do—disarm the American people? Darkness.

What if we defunded our police forces across the country, even just partially? What would happen to public safety? How would life in our cities be affected? Turn on your TV for the answer. Darkness.

What if we allowed people to throw homemade bombs at police and burn down police stations and then pretended that these violent demonstrations are peaceful? Darkness.

What if we enacted the Green New Deal? Literal darkness.

What if we let China—a Communist country that systematically imprisons and murders its own citizens—take advantage of American workers and put them out of work? Darkness.

What if we teach our kids that America is a bad country with an evil history that must be erased and that America is fundamentally a morally bankrupt country? Darkness.

Republicans are fighting for issues that the American public care about. People want good jobs, a good education for their kids, and they want to live in safe communities. Republicans are working to defend our law enforcement, invest in our military, secure the border, and stop illegal immigration. Republicans are standing up to dictators in Latin America and to Communist China, after the Democrats have appeased them for decades.

Here is the fundamental difference between Democrats and Republicans: Democrats want to control your life; Republicans want to give you a life. Republicans want to give every American the opportunity to live their version of the American dream. Governments don't do that. Politicians don't do that.

The American people are dreamers, and if we get government out of their way, the innovation, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit of the American people and American business will shine bright.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the dangerous path that national Democrats are spiraling on down and to caution our countrymen not to follow them. Radicals on the far left have hijacked an otherwise righteous cause and are in command of a once proud political party that traces its heritage back to Jefferson and Madison.

The violence the radicals have unleashed threatens lives. The cancel culture they imposed curtails liberty. And their misguided means of creating economic equality endangers the pursuit of happiness.

Joe Biden, NANCY PELOSI, and their hand-picked Democratic candidates are

empowering the radical wing of today's national Democratic Party—the same people responsible for the chaos now on full display across our country. The national leaders of the Democratic Party offer them sanctuary.

They make excuses for radicals' destructive behavior, the way an embarrassed parent does for a mischievous child. To them, the riots that are occurring from Minneapolis to Indianapolis are only peaceful protests. Promises to defund police departments are just ways of reimagining police—whatever that means. It is the same sleight of hand that turns government-run healthcare into Medicare for all who want it.

Most Democrats will not publicly embrace the socialist policies the mob howls for because they know the American people will not buy it. But once in power, they will be all too happy to implement these radical policies, and that means a mainstream national Democratic agenda that will abolish and defund police departments; take away on-the-job insurance; pack the Supreme Court of the United States; raise taxes; give Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico the same number of U.S. Senators that the State of Indiana has; eliminate the legislative filibuster and, therefore, the right of the minority within this institution; and spend trillions of dollars of new government programs that Americans don't need or want.

They are allies—the destroyers and these national Democrats I reference—only they can't be straight with the American people about their alliance, and their leaders just can't seem to summon the simple moral clarity that says racism is evil and so is using it to justify violence and vandalism.

Blessedly, in my State, local Democratic elected officials have had enough. In fact, in recent weeks, several Hoosier public servants have left their party and they have become Republicans. To clearly understand the choice before us, we need only listen to their explanations why.

This is Brian Snedcor, mayor of Hobart, who just switched from a Democrat to a Republican. He says:

I must be true to my God, my family, myself and those that have supported and believed in me . . . I want Hobart to be a place for business to come and the American Dream to be achieved.

And then we have Dave Wedding, Vanderburgh County sheriff, who also just became a Republican. Sheriff Wedding says:

I'm tired of seeing fires set in our streets. I'm tired of people defying God, our church, our police, our government and everything we stand for.

I happen to believe that every regular American feels the same way, and they will look to us to protect the American Dream and put out the fires—literal and figurative—in our streets.

The choice that each of us must make in the coming weeks is pretty

darned clear: law and order or anarchy; an economy that is growing or employers and workers which are grounded; citizens who are free and flourishing or subjects dependent on government.

What the radicals don't understand is that though we were born by revolution, the history of America is one of steady progress—a determined march together for the common good and towards an ever better union. We have to lead that march.

When far-left Democrats offer dangerous ideas and unfulfillable promises, Republicans will counter with innovative thinking and results-driven policies. We will create ways to help every American access affordable healthcare, afford a college education, advance their careers, raise a family, and buy a home that they can call their own.

Republicans will play a part in the reinvigoration of economically disadvantaged areas, both rural and urban. Ours is an America where everyone lives free of fear and is able to speak their mind, and where citizens, no matter their color or their ZIP Code, can climb as high and fly as far as their ambition and ability allows.

Their way leads to a dead end, ours to an endless frontier. They tear down. We will build. The path forward is clear.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleagues for joining me on the floor today. It is clear that America is facing two separate, very different paths.

Last Thursday, the Democrats in this Chamber blocked much needed assistance to families and small businesses struggling to make ends meet amidst the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and they did it for one reason only—politics. Our friends across the aisle didn't want to provide \$15 billion in childcare, more than \$250 billion of additional Paycheck Protection Program loans for small businesses, \$105 billion for schools, and \$20 billion for farmers.

While this aid is vital to my fellow Iowans, it would have helped families and communities all across the Nation, in red and blue States. There is no denying that the damage being caused by this pandemic is real. Businesses are being shut down, schools are being closed, and lives are being lost. Yet this toll is apparently not enough for the other side to set politics aside, even momentarily, to come together and help our fellow citizens with their daily struggles.

This senseless obstruction is leaving Iowa families to fend for themselves when they most need a helping hand. In so many ways, this represents the distinct difference between the two political parties at this very moment.

While Senate Republicans are leading efforts to get America back up and running and guarantee opportunities for everyone, Democrats are embracing obstruction and anarchy.

Following the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, my friend Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina introduced legislation to tackle police reform in a meaningful way. The bill he proposed would have enacted long overdue policies, such as finally making lynching a Federal crime, ending the use of police choke holds, expanding the use of body cameras by law enforcement, and increasing other forms of transparency and accountability.

Yet despite the impassioned pleas of Americans across the country demanding justice for George Floyd and other African-Americans who have died in police custody, Democrats blocked the Senate from even debating Senator SCOTT's thoughtful police reform bill this past summer.

Shouldn't we all be able to agree, regardless of our party affiliation, that Congress needs to take action to guarantee that no American should fear walking on the streets, especially in their own neighborhood? That guarantee should include people of color and peaceful protesters, as well as our law enforcement officers doing their jobs.

As a consequence of the Democrats' obstruction, the streets in some of America's great cities have descended into a state of chaos and lawlessness, immersed in violence and vandalism, arson and murder.

When taxpayers turn to their elected leaders—whether for assistance to provide for their families during a pandemic, for protection from unfair policing practices, or for simple safety when walking down the street—the Democrats have responded with silence and inaction.

Even when I attempted to call up a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act—a bill that is very personal to me and that also had bipartisan support—the Democrats objected to that bill as well. And the same was true for my commonsense bill, Sarah's Law, which would hold illegal immigrants who harm or murder an American citizen accountable.

It is no wonder that folks across this country are so frustrated with Washington and fed up with politicians. Folks, just one friendly reminder: Our country's direction will soon be decided by her people. America must now choose between two paths to take into the future, and that choice could not be starker.

At a time when we need leadership and reassurance, the Democrats are instead offering obstruction, lockdowns, and anarchy. Our friends across the aisle are actually promising—folks, they are promising—to increase taxes on hardworking Americans and even promising to defund the police. That is right, folks. You get to pay more taxes in exchange for less safety and security. That doesn't sound like a good deal to me.

Speaking of bad bargains, you can expect the Democrats to pass their Green New Deal if they are given the chance.

This radical environmental plan would destroy our very way of life in Iowa.

The roadmap offered by Republicans is much brighter, to say the least: reopening America safely; real reforms to end excessive use of force by police without putting the safety of everyone at risk by defunding the police; building upon the successful pro-growth policies that created the greatest economy and historically low unemployment rates for every demographic; and bringing the jobs that were exported under the previous administration back to America and ending our dependency on foreign nations like Red China.

Folks, with our country and the world facing one of the greatest health and economic emergencies in history, we simply cannot risk our recovery on the radical designs of the Democrats. Let's pursue the path towards a renewed United States of America that guarantees safety and greater opportunities for every citizen to pursue the American dream.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from Illinois.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 549

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am going to make a unanimous consent request in a moment, but I would like to preface it by saying what it is about so that as we explain it after the unanimous consent request is objected to, it will be clearer.

In the nation of Venezuela, there exists today an incredible political situation. I have been there to see it. There is a dictator in charge, and life on the street is deadly—so deadly that millions of Venezuelans are fleeing the country as fast as possible.

There is a limitation on food and medicine. There is so much suffering and starvation and deprivation that these people have given up everything, and they are just leaving. The United States knows that this is under the leader, Maduro. It reached a point where it is physically dangerous—so much so that we have a warning to American travelers not to go to Venezuela, to stay away because it is too dangerous.

Yet thousands of Venezuelans now in the United States are facing the threat of being forced return to this deadly, dangerous situation. The same State Department that warns Americans not to travel to Venezuela is now trying to force those Venezuelans who are here as students and others to go back to this deadly situation.

Senator MENENDEZ and I and others think it just makes sense for us to give these people a shelter until it is safe for them to return to their home. That is what this request is about.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 549 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time

passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. THUNE. Reserving the right to object. On behalf of my colleague Senator LEE, who cannot be here to object on his own because he is chairing an Energy subcommittee hearing, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I know the Senator from South Dakota is making the objection on behalf of Senator LEE, and I have been called to do the same thing from time to time. I won't assign any political blame to him, but I will say this is a serious mistake and deadly mistake for these Venezuelans.

This is an issue which in many parts of America is red hot. Those of Venezuelan ancestry or those who are here in a temporary status cannot understand what just happened. They want to stay here safely. They don't want to be forced to return to this nation that is such a dangerous place under this dictator.

A number of times in the last year, Senator MENENDEZ, who is on the floor with me here, has joined with me on behalf of the Venezuelan people. President Trump boasts that he supports these people.

The idea is simple: While the country remains a dictatorial nightmare, grant Venezuelans in the United States temporary protected status or TPS. It is the kind of commonsense move a self-confident nation and one that really cares about humanity would do to demonstrate real leadership and accept.

TPS is a temporary immigration status provided to foreign nationals if returning to their country poses a serious threat to their safety for any variety of reasons—natural disaster, environmental disaster, extraordinary conditions, armed conflicts. Certainly by every objective measure, the situation in Venezuela today is deadly and dangerous. It is not a permanent immigration status we are seeking for these Venezuelans, just a measure of American decency and solidarity with those who might be in the United States when a calamity occurs in their home country. Prior administrations of both political parties have granted it for people from countries facing these circumstances.

The situation in Venezuela is dire. Currently, the United States is working with regional partners to foster an end to the disastrous dictatorship clinging to power in Venezuela.

I was there before the sham 2018 election. What I saw was heartbreaking—people starving and fainting at work from malnutrition; hospitals without power or basic medicines. I visited a Catholic children's hospital in Caracas. They told me they didn't have the basics to treat these children. Antibiotics and cancer drugs were unavailable.

Millions were fleeing this country and still are, as refugees into neighboring countries. There is brutal political repression. If you disagree with Maduro publicly, be prepared to go to prison. There is staggering government corruption and dismantling of the government's democracy. Now, the tragic impacts of coronavirus have made the situation worse as well.

I supported this administration's efforts to work with other nations to support the interim Presidency of Juan Guaido. I had a chance to speak with President Guaido on the phone yesterday. I am deeply moved by his courage and concern for the Venezuelan people amid the suffering. Think about what he is up against. Here is a man who at any moment could face imprisonment or worse.

It is remarkable that more than 2 years after an internationally discredited Presidential election, Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro is now planning another illegitimate election instead of finally holding a fair, credible Presidential contest.

I asked President Guaido: Are there going to be any international observers of this international election coming up this December?

Oh, yes.

I said: Who?

He said: The Russians.

I said: What a coincidence. They are observing our election too.

Venezuela has tragically fallen from President Trump's attention. One simple step he could take is grant TPS to Venezuelans here in the United States. He repeatedly refuses. There are travel warnings to Americans telling people not to go close to Venezuela, but for the Venezuelans here on visa or TPS status: You have to go home. The President has refused, I suspect, because the depth of his anti-immigrant cruelty really has no limits.

Despite the chest-thumping to audiences in Florida about taking on Venezuelan dictators, President Trump has, in fact, turned his back on the Venezuelans in the United States who truly need his protection. Nobody should be surprised, as former National Security Advisor John Bolton wrote in his book, that the President praised Maduro as "smart" and "tough" and waffled on any kind of coherent policy in the region and told Bolton not to get too deeply involved. President Trump can't have it both ways.

I have met many Venezuelans in my home State of Illinois. I can tell you that they are desperately worried about being forced to return to the chaos, violence, and hopelessness of the current Venezuela.

The Trump administration's travel advisory says it all:

Do not travel due to COVID-19, crime, civil unrest, poor health infrastructure, kidnapping, arbitrary arrest and detention of U.S. citizens . . . Violent crime, such as homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, and carjacking, is common.

Yet the Republicans come to the floor and object to our efforts to protect the Venezuelans who are doing

their best to avoid what I just read as a warning to American travelers.

Just today, U.N. investigators released findings saying that under Maduro, Venezuela has “committed egregious violations” amounting to crimes against humanity. How can this President and the State Department possibly force people to return to Venezuela under these conditions? And now, with Maduro detaining returning refugees and calling them “bioterrorists,” the idea of going back is even more dangerous.

Since the White House wouldn’t act more than a year ago, the House, under Democratic control, passed a bipartisan bill granting TPS to Venezuelans by a margin of 272 to 158. Senator MENENDEZ, Senator RUBIO, and I introduced a similar Senate bill, but the majority leader, MITCH MCCONNELL, still refuses to bring up any bill that just might not please President Trump—even ones that supposedly he is publicly supporting.

Senator MENENDEZ and I have tried to call up the House bill for passage, only to face objections, just as we did today, from Senate Republicans who refuse to stand up to this President’s failure on this and so many other foreign policies.

When we brought this up last July, Senate Republicans objected because they said they wanted to debate it in the Judiciary Committee. Well, 12 months passed with plenty of opportunities. Our Venezuelan TPS bill was referred to the committee in February of 2019. Yet there has been no action, no hearing, no markup. The Immigration Subcommittee is not overloaded with work. Under Chairman CORNYN, we have had exactly one subcommittee meeting in the past 1½ years. It hasn’t held a single hearing this year, and the Senate Judiciary Committee hasn’t considered a single immigration bill.

This administration could grant TPS without congressional action, but it refuses. Senate Republicans could pass the bipartisan House bill to grant Venezuelans TPS, but they refuse as well. Let it be clear that the real failure to help Venezuelans in the United States rests on their shoulders—the President and the Republican majority in the Senate.

The Venezuelan policy, like so many others with this administration and the Senate, is only there to serve President Trump and no one else.

I made my offer in the hope that we could bring this matter to the floor. I am sorry it met an objection. I thank my colleagues for joining me on this effort.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there may be portions where I may say a few words in Spanish, and I will provide a translation for the clerk.

I ask unanimous consent to be able to do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, we are here today once again to join Senator DURBIN, who has been on the floor with me or I with him I don’t know how many times now as it relates to this issue. We are here to urge the Senate to immediately approve legislation that would designate Venezuelans for temporary protected status.

There are some 200,000 Venezuelans who are currently living in the United States. They are unable to return home safely, and they would benefit from TPS.

We should be doing the right thing. We should be upholding American values and offering them protection, but once again, our Republican colleagues have blocked our efforts.

We know what is at stake. Venezuela continues to experience the worst humanitarian crisis in our hemisphere. Its people continue to suffer food and medicine shortages, levels of criminal violence akin to a conflict zone, and grave human rights abuses under the Maduro regime. As if that were not enough, Venezuelans face the alarming spread of COVID-19 with a public health system in ruins.

For 7 years, Maduro’s devastating abuses of the Venezuelan people have left them with little choice but to stay and suffer or flee and have a chance at survival—flee the political persecution, flee the oppression.

In Maduro’s Venezuela, families struggle to feed themselves and children tragically die of treatable diseases. More than half of all Venezuelan doctors have fled the country, and 40 percent of hospitals lack electricity and 70 percent lack regular access to water. Senate Republicans want to leave the Venezuelans who are in the United States at risk of deportation back to Maduro’s nightmare rather than take action. Meanwhile, the Maduro regime is using the spread of COVID-19 to further tighten its control.

Last month, Human Rights Watch reported that dozens of journalists, healthcare workers, human rights lawyers, and political opponents have been detained or prosecuted for merely criticizing or questioning the regime’s official statistics on the pandemic.

Take the case of Ivan Virguez, a 65-year-old human rights attorney who had expressed concern on Facebook about “quarantine centers” that had been set up by the regime. In response, police officers handcuffed him to a metal tube in a prison yard, under the Sun for 2 hours, and left him without access to a bathroom for over a day, causing him to become sick with bladder pain. Ivan remains under house arrest and without access to his criminal file and no due process.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

As Senator DURBIN said, “just today, the United Nations released a report finding that Maduro’s yearslong cam-

paign of extrajudicial killings and torture amounts to crimes against humanity.” Yet President Trump and Senate Republicans refuse to provide humanitarian protection to Venezuelans in the United States.

The extraordinary conditions in Venezuela have forced more than 5 million Venezuelans to flee their country in search of protection. Last year, I traveled to Cucuta, which is the border city between Colombia and Venezuela, and I saw for myself the thousands of refugees and migrants who cross every day. I will never forget their stories—stories of heartbreak and suffering from people leaving everything they have ever known behind—their homes, their loved ones—in an attempt to survive.

We have applauded Venezuela’s neighbors, including Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil, for welcoming Venezuelan refugees and migrants despite their having far fewer resources than the United States. Yet the Trump administration has failed to ensure that America lives up to its history as a beacon of freedom and hope around the world.

Many Venezuelans in the United States today who would be eligible for TPS are stuck in immigration detention. The Trump administration and the Republican-led Senate have failed to grant them TPS, which leaves them facing uncertainty and the fear of deportation. Many others who have come from Venezuela to seek political asylum have been turned back and deported—back to countries like Mexico and with all of the risks that those border cities present. They have not even been given a chance to make their political asylum claims.

So make no mistake: The Trump administration has all of the authority it needs to designate Venezuela immediately—it doesn’t need this legislation—but the President has chosen not to. That is why we introduced legislation that would grant TPS to our Venezuelan brothers and sisters. The House has already passed a similar bill.

Now, I have had other issues here in the Senate for which I have had to do this before, and I will do it again. I am not going to relent in our effort to grant Venezuelans the protections they deserve. Every time my Republican colleagues have wanted to stop our Nation from ultimately making progress, we have had to shame them into submission, and this is no different. I am not going to stop until the United States truly stands in solidarity with the Venezuelan people.

If you don’t want to give them TPS, let them make their claims for political asylum, but then you take them and turn them away before they can make cases for political asylum when we know—God—that there is a good case for political asylum coming out of Venezuela.

Then we have had colleagues in the past, one being Senator SCOTT, of Florida, who came and objected to our TPS proposal for Venezuelans. He suggested

that we have to change all of TPS because, in fact, it had become more than a temporary protected status.

Well, guess what. The Ninth Circuit Court actually made a decision which I disagree with, but we call attention to the action that comes on the heels of a disappointing Ninth Circuit decision issued on Monday that says that the Trump administration's cruel efforts to strip protections of over 300,000 current TPS holders is permissible. So there goes the argument that, oh, well, TPS is permanent. No. The President could have granted it, and he can end it when he feels the conditions in Venezuela no longer should give the opportunity for Venezuelans to continue to have temporary protected status. So that argument is out of the way.

As for debating this in the Committee on the Judiciary, well, you have had over a year to debate it since we started this. You are in the majority. You control the committee, and you control the subcommittee. You could have had the debates. We don't come to the floor lightly to seek unanimous consent. We do it after having waited a considerable time for the debates to have taken place—the debates you said you wanted—but they haven't come.

There are people living, working, and raising families legally in the United States who have Venezuelan backgrounds. Yet the President is doing everything he can to line them up for deportation. Of those at risk, 130,000 essential workers are among them, who have sacrificed their health during this pandemic to ensure that all Americans have access to healthcare, food, and basic necessities.

The administration's efforts are also endangering over 273,000 U.S. citizen children who call a TPS holder "Mom" or "Dad." That is right. In the midst of a deadly pandemic, this administration wants to deport the parents of hundreds of thousands of American children or force these families to relocate their children to unstable, wholly unfamiliar countries.

This callous disregard for TPS holders and the greater immigrant community has to stop. We shouldn't wait for the Ninth Circuit's decision to be appealed. We have to create a permanent solution for TPS holders who have become integral to our communities and deserve a pathway. The Senate should not only take up TPS but pass the American Dream and Promise Act, H.R. 6, which passed the House with bipartisan support more than a year ago.

What are we waiting for?

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Venezuelans deserve TPS right now. We cannot wait.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues Senator MENENDEZ and Senator DURBIN in urging the U.S. Senate to do the right thing and grant protected status to

Venezuelans in this country. At this moment, I thank them for their continued leadership on this issue and for making sure we have immigration policies that live up to what this country has always stood for.

As my colleagues have pointed out, Venezuela is suffering a dire humanitarian crisis under the dictatorship of Nicolas Maduro. Its economy has collapsed, and its medical system is in free fall. They are governing through a reign of terror.

Even before COVID-19 struck, Venezuelans were facing shortages of food, of water, of gasoline, and other life-saving items. The pandemic has taken a very bad situation and made it much worse—in fact, desperate. An estimated two-thirds of physicians in Venezuela lack access to basic sanitary equipment, like gloves, masks, soap, or goggles, and only 25 percent of the doctors have reliable running water in their hospitals and clinics.

On top of this desperate economic situation, you have the political tyranny and terror that has been imposed by the Maduro regime. In fact, as my colleagues pointed out just this morning, U.N. investigators found that Venezuelan security forces and allied groups have committed systemic human rights violations, including killings and torture, amounting to crimes against humanity. Reasonable grounds exist to believe that President Maduro and his Interior and Defense Ministers ordered or contributed to these crimes against humanity, which are documented in the U.N. report. The U.N. factfinding mission has said that other national jurisdictions and the International Criminal Court should consider prosecutions. So you have a desperate situation.

President Trump claims to support the people of Venezuela who are facing this tyranny and this desperation. In fact, as Senator DURBIN said, he has on numerous occasions said he was sympathetic and that he wanted to help.

Here is what he said last year: "To the Venezuelans trapped in this nightmare, please know that all of America is behind you."

That is what President Trump said. Yet he has refused to use his authority to take action to grant Venezuelans here in the United States that temporary protected status. He wants to send them back to what he describes as a nightmare—a nightmare that is getting worse by the day as documented by the U.N. report. He wants to send them back to a place where the U.N. has just implicated the government in crimes against humanity.

Because the President refuses to do what he says—refuses to actually take action to help—the House has passed legislation to grant Venezuelans TPS. My colleagues Senator MENENDEZ and Senator DURBIN have introduced that legislation here in the Senate, and I am proud to cosponsor it. Yet, as we are saying here today, the fastest thing to do is to just take up the House bill and

pass it. So it is incredibly disturbing that our Republican colleagues would get up and block a vote on that action on the very day when the government in question, the Government of Venezuela, has been found to have committed crimes against humanity.

The majority in this Senate says: Well, don't worry about that. If you are here in the United States, we are going to insist that you go back home. We are going to insist that you put yourself and your family back this danger.

That is what our Senate Republican colleagues are saying by blocking the vote on this House TPS measure. They are forcing innocent people to go home to what the President himself described as a nightmare.

As my colleagues have said and as we know, this is part of an inhumane, anti-immigration agenda from this administration—from the Muslim ban, to ending DACA, to the termination of TPS for many other populations. This President has separated families and instilled fear in our communities.

Senator MENENDEZ referenced the Ninth Circuit Court's decision from earlier this week, the decision of its upholding, on a 2-to-1 vote, the President's decision to rescind TPS protections for over 400,000 individuals who are here, working in our communities, living here legally with their families. Many of them have been here for over 20 years. As he said, 130,000 of them are on our frontlines as essential workers. More than 10,000 of them are medical professionals who put themselves at risk to help others throughout our communities and our country. These are individuals who are our neighbors and small business men and women, and they are contributing to our communities and to our country. The President has said he wants to deport them—400,000 people—despite this hour of peril both here and even more so in the countries to which they would be required to return.

That is why we have to pass the SECURE Act—to provide stability and security to those who are on TPS. That is why we have to pass the American Dream and Promise Act that the House passed last year.

That is why we need to grant TPS to Venezuela, so, as my colleagues say, this country can do what Presidents from both political parties have done in the past and Members of the House and Senate from both political parties have done in the past, which is to live up to the idea that we are a place of refuge for those who are facing political persecution at home.

I don't know how you can more clearly define "political persecution" on this day than a finding by the United Nations that the Government of Venezuela is committing crimes against humanity, against the people of Venezuela. Yet, that is the day that, once again, we saw our Republican colleagues block this legislation that would allow our country to live up to our tradition of doing the right thing.

As Senator MENENDEZ said, I look forward to joining him as we continue to press this issue. I guess the only good news is that it seems to be getting a little harder for the other side—our Republican colleagues—to find somebody who wants to come here in the light of day and object to it. I hope that in the coming days, that number will be zero and we can actually pass this important piece of legislation.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Dugan nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David W. Dugan, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Dugan nomination?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 179 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Sasse
Collins	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Loeffler	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Durbin	McSally	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer		

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Cortez Masto	Leahy
Bennet	Duckworth	Markey
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Menendez
Booker	Gillibrand	Merkley
Brown	Hassan	Murphy
Cantwell	Heinrich	Murray
Cardin	Hirono	Peters
Carper	Kaine	Reed
Casey	King	Rosen
Coons	Klobuchar	Schatz

Schumer	Stabenow	Warner
Shaheen	Tester	Whitehouse
Sinema	Udall	Wyden
Smith	Van Hollen	

NOT VOTING—4

Capito	Sanders
Harris	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MCGLYNN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McGlynn nomination?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 180 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Sasse
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Shelby
Cramer	Loeffler	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Durbin	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Murphy	
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Booker	Jones	Shaheen
Brown	Kaine	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Capito	Sanders
Harris	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Iain D. Johnston, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Todd Young, Joni Ernst, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Deb Fischer, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Tim Scott, Thom Tillis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Iain D. Johnston, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 81, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 181 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Alexander	Gardner	Portman
Baldwin	Graham	Reed
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Bennet	Hassan	Roberts
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blunt	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cardin	Inhofe	Sasse
Carper	Johnson	Schatz
Casey	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shaheen
Coons	King	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sinema
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Smith
Cotton	Lee	Stabenow
Cramer	Loeffler	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Tester
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Daines	McSally	Tillis
Duckworth	Moran	Toomey
Durbin	Murkowski	Udall
Enzi	Murphy	Warner
Ernst	Paul	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Perdue	Wicker
Fischer	Peters	Young

NAYS—15

Blumenthal	Brown	Gillibrand
Booker	Cantwell	Hirono